

ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES, PATENT OFFICE.

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L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE  
INTERIOR SUBMITTING AN ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION FOR  
EMPLOYEES IN PATENT OFFICE.

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FEBRUARY 4, 1902.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be  
printed.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, February 3, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, of the 1st instant, submitting an estimate of appropriation for an increased force in the Patent Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, amounting to \$58,700.

Respectfully,

L. M. SHAW,  
*Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, February 1, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication from the Commissioner of Patents inclosing a supplemental estimate of \$58,700, for an additional force of employees for that Bureau for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903. The Commissioner, in his letter, fully sets forth the necessity for this proposed increase of force.

The recommendation as made by him meets with my approval, and the estimate in question is respectfully forwarded through your Department for the appropriate action of Congress.

Very respectfully,

E. A. HITCHCOCK, *Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,  
*Washington, D. C., January 31, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to call your attention to the fact that the growth of the work in this Bureau is such as to require an increase of force, and feeling that the operations of the Bureau will be embarrassed in the near future unless provision is made at this time for such increase, I would respectfully call your attention to the following facts bearing upon this question:

The Patent Office issued 27,373 patents during the year 1901, the largest annual issue in its entire history.

The total number of trade-marks, prints, and labels registered for the year 1901 was 2,965, the largest issue of certificates of registration in the history of the office.

The condition of the examining divisions upon December 31 is indicated by the fact that of the 36 divisions, 16 were then taking up new cases for action within one month from the date of filing, 19 were in arrears between one and two months, and 1 division between two and three months. The total number of cases awaiting action on the part of the office upon December 31 was 8,510. Of the examining divisions of this office, those which are more than one month in arrears (and numbering 20) are under rules requiring them to work until 5 o'clock p. m. so long as they remain more than one month in arrears, and thus 128 examiners and assistants out of 219 are working overtime to keep up the work of their divisions. The work thus required beyond the regular hours of the Department is equal to the working time of 20 persons, working continuously for the regular departmental hours. This condition is chronic and is due to the fact that the work has outgrown the examining corps.

The number of examiners should be increased to provide properly for this situation, which operates unfairly against a skilled body of employees of the Government and which may be reasonably expected to grow worse by the growth of the business of this Bureau in accordance with the general growth of the industrial arts of the country of which it is an index.

Already the work of classification has become a considerable part of the work of this office and requires the continuous employment of a force of 12 examiners and 14 clerks. The value of this work is already manifest, and it should be allowed to proceed faster by the assignment of more assistants to this division. The fact that over 700,000 patents have been issued by the Government is enough to suggest the truth that classification is a necessary thing if the system of examination of applications upon the question of novelty is to continue.

It is believed that to meet the necessities already pressing upon this office, whereby its work may be kept up within the working hours provided by the rules prevailing generally in the Departments of the Government, and to meet the requirements of the business of this office for the fiscal year 1902-1903, there should be furnished the following additional force, viz, three principal examiners, of whom one shall take the place of an assistant now at the head of one of the examining divisions, and the other two shall have charge of two new divisions to be formed. The following assistant examiners will be required: Four first assistant examiners, eight second assistant exam-

iners, ten third assistant examiners, and ten fourth assistant examiners.

This force will go in part to supply the twenty places now represented by overtime work in these divisions, and will also replace eleven acting assistant examiners who are drawn from grades of employees not expected to perform such services, and whose services can then be used in lines of work for which they were originally intended and which need them. It will also permit more rapid progress in the work of classification.

I recommend very strongly that this office be allowed two clerks of class four, at \$1,800, and one clerk of class three, at \$1,600, in addition to those already provided for. One of these \$1,800 positions will place the copy room, where there are fifty people employed, under a chief whose independence and salary will conform to those of other divisions in this office; the other will go to the head of the mail and express room, a salary to which his services entitle him, as the operations of this room have enabled us in the last six months to check losses of funds in this office in a way very creditable to the management of that room. The \$1,600 position should go to the head of the preliminary search room, a position of responsibility, as it involves the supervision of records of this office when taken from examiners' rooms for consultation by attorneys. The position should be dignified, and should receive at all times competent services, for which this salary would be about right.

The balance in favor of this office for the calendar year 1901 amounted to \$152,012.52, and if a portion of this could be expended in increase of force it would only meet the existing necessities of the work of this Bureau.

Very respectfully, yours,

F. I. ALLEN,  
*Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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*Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903,  
by the United States Patent Office.*

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

##### PATENT OFFICE.

##### Salaries, Patent Office—For additional force:

Three principal examiners, at \$2,500 each (submitted).....	\$7, 500
Four first assistant examiners, at \$1,800 each (submitted).....	7, 200
Eight second assistant examiners, at \$1,600 each (submitted).....	12, 800
Ten third assistant examiners, at \$1,400 each (submitted).....	14, 000
Ten fourth assistant examiners, at \$1,200 each (submitted).....	12, 000
Two clerks of class 4, at \$1,800 each (submitted).....	3, 600
One clerk of class 3, at \$1,600 (submitted).....	1, 600
Total .....	58, 700

